

[When Sherman was ravaging]

[Carlise C?]

Project 1885 -1

From Field Notes

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Edited by:

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FOLK-LORE: FOLK TALES

When Sherman was ravaging in the State of South Carolina during the Civil War, many people refugeed from the lower part of the state to the upper part in order to escape his cruelties. A Matthews family came from Charleston to Fish Dam Township. They could find no suitable house within the township, or even in the small village of Carlisle; so Mr. George Hill, owner of "Hillside" Mansion, through the kindness of his heart, took the family into his abode. He was a widower at that time, and kept a Scotch woman to serve as his housekeeper. The Matthews family accepted part of the mansion for their private quarters. They brought with them from Charleston a young house-girl known as "Maum" Sallie. At the time she first began her sojourn in Carlisle, she was between the age of twelve and fourteen years.

One day Mrs. Matthews died at "Hillside". She is buried in the Fish Dam burial ground, where all of the Hills are buried. After her death, her two daughters left Carlisle, one of

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them going to Greenville, S.C. But "Maum" Sallie had fallen in love with a tall lanky darky whose name was John Hill. John was Mr. Hill's best slave. So Sallie and John were married at the slave church, by the pastor who always preached to the Hill slaves on Sunday in this church. Sallie and John lived on the Hill plantation and reared two sons.

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One of them still lives with Mrs. Wood, daughter of Mr. Hill, who now resides at Hillside. His name is Tom, and he waits on the "Cap" and the "Missus" of Hillside today.

When Sallie's little boys were up some size, she married a [negro?] much younger than she was and went with him to Mississippi. She had not been there long when word reached Carlisle that "Maum" Sallie was longing for her Carolina sunshine. For years she lived in Mississippi and did not return to her beloved plantation home. But each year word got back that "Maum" Sallie was coming back to see her folks. Finally the second husband died. He was buried in Mississippi. Sallie's two sons in Carlisle got "Marse" George to help them get up some money to bring their mother back to Carlisle. With the help of Mr. Hill, they got up twenty dollars and sent it to Sallie. The day that she arrived, her sons with their families and the other darkies who remembered her, were all at the station to greet her. All of the darkies in Carlisle were proud to have a woman in their midst called "Maum". Some of them called her simply that and left off "Sallie".

Sallie took up her old place at "Hillside" as maid for the household. She had no trouble establishing her old place in the community, even though all the darkies were now free. She was ever faithful to her "White folks" whom she loved.

During the World War, after Mrs. Wood and her sister, Mrs. W. B. May, had inherited Hillside, they decided to entertain some of the soldiers at dinner one Sunday.

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The soldiers whom they had invited were all Yankees. When dinner was about ready, Mrs. Wood went into the kitchen where Sallie was helping the cook. Sallie had become too old

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now to do any steady work. Mrs. Wood, hoping to compliment her, said: "Sallie, I tell you what you do. Since it is Sunday and at Christmas, too, suppose you put on a fresh white apron and come in and wait on the table today."

Mrs. Wood thought: how the soldiers would enjoy this old slave-time darky. Sallie perked up very indignantly and replied:

"Lawdy God! Miss Ruth, what ails you? Don't you know dis nigger don' nebber want to see no mo' of dem Yankees? Kaise ain't she been skeerd of dem ebber since she left Charleston wid her fus' mistess? No maum'um, anything dat youse wants des nigger to do for youse, she'll do it; but she show to goodness ain't gwine to serve no Yankees at no table, kaise she ain't even gwine to look at 'em."

Sallie died on the twenty-eighth of August 1921. She is buried in the slave graveyard on the Hill plantation in sight of the mansion.

SOURCE: Mr. and Mrs. George Wood; Jim Wallace (col.). Carlisle, S.C. Interviewer: Caldwell Sims, Union, S.C.